

NICOLE R. GALLOWAY, CPA Missouri State Auditor

May 31, 2018

The Honorable Ron Richard, President Pro Tem Missouri State Senate State Capitol Building, Room 326 Jefferson City, MO 65101

The Honorable Todd Richardson, Speaker of the House Missouri House of Representatives State Capitol Building, Room 308 Jefferson City, MO 65101

To the members of the Missouri General Assembly:

I write today to praise the professionalism and work of the Missouri House of Representatives' Special Investigative Committee on Oversight, and ask that the driving principle of their work -- seeking truth for Missourians -- continue.

On May 29, a judge ordered compliance with a subpoena from the Missouri House of Representatives to reveal the details of the Governor's dark money operation. Mere hours after the deadline to turn over this information, the Governor of the State of Missouri plans to resign, possibly depriving Missourians of the right to know how dark money and special interests are secretly influencing their government. This is too important to the future of our state and to the integrity of public service to be swept under the rug.

In order to restore the public trust, the legislature must continue its work into the investigation of coordination between dark-money organizations and state entities.

The same special interests that sought to influence the Governor will remain. They will seek opportunities to operate in the shadows and outside scrutiny, all the while working to influence your decisions. But, there are ways for the legislature to combat this corruption.

In 2012, legislation was introduced to require disclosure of contributions to 501(c)(4) political nonprofits. That was great legislation then, and now more than ever, it should be a priority for the General Assembly. I urge its passage, whether it be taken up during a special session or next session.



Additionally, the General Assembly should ensure that the Missouri Ethics Commission has the full authority under law to enforce Advisory Opinion No. 2018.05.CF.004 by codifying that not-for-profit corporations that receive donations for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the actions of voters are required to file disclosures with the Commission.

Missourians deserve a full accounting of the truth and full disclosure of the extent of dark money's influence on state government. The General Assembly should take action to address this corrupting influence and continue, as it did with the Special Committee, to wisely exercise its oversight.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Galloway, CPA

State Auditor